



KREC supports, coordinates, promotes and advances research, development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, practices and outreach activities of importance to Kentucky. KREC also works to build public and private partnerships that support Kentucky's communities through the wise use of energy.

KREC is a partnership of numerous groups, including the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI), industry, public advocacy groups, energy producers, government agencies and others. Working through these members, KREC completed a number of important projects from 2006-2008:

- Awarded \$1.14 million, and \$295,000 in cost-share match from DEDI, to seven energy-related research projects at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky
- Completed and distributed a "Legislative Prospectus" that outlined energy recommendations for Kentucky's General Assembly
- Conducted three town hall meetings and distributed a state-wide energy survey
- Conducted two radio interviews concerning KREC activities and initiatives
- Completed the *25x'25 Roadmap for Kentucky: Charting Kentucky's Energy Future*, a guide for moving Kentucky toward a renewable energy future.

With federal funding for 2009, KREC will continue to advance renewable energy research efforts through its competitive grants program and strengthen its partnerships with government, industry and public groups.

KREC Outreach and Communications

One of KREC's goals is to serve as a clearinghouse and networking group to exchange knowledge and activities of the Consortium. To address that goal, KREC made information, press releases and news updates available to the Governor's Office and General Assembly, business organizations, university researchers and the news media throughout the fiscal year. KREC activities were covered by 18 press releases, two radio interviews, three town hall meetings and national 25x'25 news articles. In addition to these outreach events, KREC held quarterly meetings, beginning in the winter of 2005, to bring the consortium's members and advisory board together for discussion, goal-setting and regular updates on KREC's progress.

KREC Publications

KREC developed two important publications over the last year, the *Legislative Prospectus* and the *25x'25 Roadmap for Kentucky*. These publications helped KREC advance its renewable energy and energy efficiency goals by highlighting the consortium's legislative priorities and providing a comprehensive assessment of Kentucky's ability to meet its 25x'25 goals.

KREC reaches out to members of the consortium on a regular basis to keep members engaged and up-to-date on KREC's activities and renewable energy and energy efficiency related news. KREC News, a twice-monthly e-newsletter, has proven an effective way to communicate with KREC's many members from across the Commonwealth. Additionally, KREC's website is part of the KPPC - Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center website, and is another resource for the Consortium's members.





Kentucky's 25x'25 Roadmap

The Kentucky Rural Energy Consortium published the “25x'25 Roadmap for Kentucky – Charting Kentucky's Renewable Energy Future,” which outlined an ambitious goal for the Commonwealth: “*By the year 2025, Kentucky will use renewable energy and energy efficiency as means to get at least 25 percent of its total energy from improved technologies and renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass and biofuels.*”

Three town hall meetings were held across the state to gather public input for the 25x'25 Roadmap development process. Hundreds of citizens joined the meetings and brought many innovative and entrepreneurial ideas, as well as some important criticisms of current and proposed energy policies. In addition to public meetings, an energy survey was sent to KREC members and to industry and government leaders to establish a baseline of current renewable energy efforts across the state and gather new ideas for consideration in the 25x'25 Roadmap. Additional funding to print the Roadmap report was provided by the 25x'25 National Initiative. The Roadmap was developed to not only point the way for Kentucky to achieve its 25x'25 goals, it was intended to be a way to spark thoughtful discussion on the Commonwealth's energy future. In the last two years, Kentucky's Legislature passed two major energy bills, HB1 and HB2. Together, these bills expanded or created programs and funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency, established net metering, and placed the state on the road to a secure energy future. This past November, Governor Steve Beshear released *Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future*. This seven-point strategy included calls for improvements in energy efficiency and an expanded use of renewables in the state's energy mix. Successful implementation of the Governor's plan would allow Kentucky to achieve its 25x'25 goals. KREC is pleased that Kentucky is moving in this direction, and that, through the *Legislative Prospectus* and the *Roadmap*, the Consortium has made significant contributions to the discussion.

KREC-Supported Research Projects

KREC conducted a competitive grant program with Kentucky's public universities to develop resource-responsible technologies and practices significant to the energy sector. The research goals for the Consortium include dramatically reducing the U.S. dependency on foreign oil and creating an economically viable bioenergy industry in the Commonwealth. KREC received 14 proposals for funding and awarded \$1.14 million, and \$295,000 in cost share from DEDI, to seven projects submitted by the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky. The research and development projects supported 22 researchers and 22 students at State Universities. Funding these researchers and their students has allowed KREC to build and expand the Commonwealth's intellectual capacity for renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as encourage collaboration among faculty at different institutions.

